

大学英语自主学习规划教材
Learner Autonomy Series

大学英语 口语教程

第三册

罗敏田颖/主编

College Oral
English Course
(Book 3)

华中科技大学出版社
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主 编 罗 敏 田 颖

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前 言

为适应大学英语教学的新形势,深化教学改革,提高教学质量,满足社会对人才培养的需要,教育部在2007年颁发了《大学英语课程教学要求》,作为高等学校组织非英语专业本科英语教学的主要依据。《大学英语课程教学要求》明确了大学英语的教学目标是“培养学生的英语综合应用能力,特别是听说能力,使他们在今后学习、工作和社会交往中能用地英语有效地进行交际”。根据该《课程要求》,《大学英语口语教程》编写组编写了该教材。

《大学英语口语教程》分(一)、(二)、(三)、(四)册。四册书是一个整体,每册各有其重点,又相互衔接。全套书共由40个单元(unit)组成,每本书10个单元。每个单元覆盖一个中心话题(topic)以及涉及的相关内容。每个单元均围绕中心话题以模块的形式展开,突出以学生为中心的教学模式,通过大量的课堂和课外练习,提高学生的英语口语表达能力。

该教材编写以学生实际需求出发,选材尽量贴近学生日常生活。从学生进入大学熟悉校园环境,在大学学习生活,到最后走出校园找工作,各类话题均有覆盖。

该教材编写思路清晰,例如,第一册:熟悉(knowing)校园;第二册:享受(enjoying)大学生活;第三册:对大学生生活各方面发表(talking)见解;第四册:走出校园寻找工作。在实践(practising)英语方面安排的模块有:背景介绍(knowing),对话实例(enjoying),活动安排和课外作业(talking&practising),始终贯穿着knowing→enjoying→talking→practising这一先输入后输出的编写理念。

该教材特别重视文化的输入与介绍。在每单元的背景部分和结束部分均有大量与主题相关的文化知识介绍,其目的是让学生在学好语言的同时,感受英语文化,理解英语文化,从而更好地促进语言学习。

参与本套教材编写的人员有:李鹏(第一册 Unit1—Unit5,第四册 Unit6—Unit10)、徐坤银(第一册 Unit6—Unit10)、陈国良(第二册 Unit1—Unit5)、刘玲玉(第二册 Unit6—Unit10)、罗敏(第三册 Unit1—Unit5)、田颖(第三册 Unit6—Unit10)、何敏(第四册 Unit1—Unit5)。

最后要感谢武汉工业学院外语系全体同仁的大力支持。

由于时间仓促,编者水平有限,书中不免有各种不足之处,恳请广大读者及同行不吝赐教。

编 者

2009年6月

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Unit 1 Surfing the Internet

I. Background

Cyber culture is a subculture of the Age of Technology. Interest in cyberspace has taken the world by storm! Men, women and children are now equally being dominated by the use of technology in the home, at school and at work. Students today use computers as a tool in the classroom as never before.

Technology is quickly becoming an international phenomenon. Schools around the world are being wired to accommodate modern modes of instruction. Microsoft has come to dominate the world market along with the Apple Computer Company and others, which have provide schools with educational software programs. With these programs in hand, students are able to create programs, make PowerPoint presentations, evaluate software and surf the Internet with ease. The Internet provides vistas of knowledge to students, bringing knowledge to their fingertips in a new way.

II. Warm-up

Activity 1

When we talk about the Internet, what's the first thing that comes into your mind? Why?

The first thing that comes into my mind is...

The first thing that I think about is...

It's hard to say, there are so many things we can do...

Activity 2

Do you still remember the first time when you surfed the Internet? What did you do?

III. Demonstration

Conversation 1

A: Do you often surf the Internet?

B: Yes. I spend a lot of time on the net every day.

A: What do you usually do on the net?

B: I chat on line. I also look for information I need and send e-mails.

A: Sounds interesting. I'll have a try sometime.

B: So you've never surfed the Internet, have you?

A: No, I can only surf in the sea.

Conversation 2

A: Are you still looking for a roommate?

B: Yes. I'm still looking for someone to share the room with me.

A: Jim from Class Three is also looking for a roommate.

B: Really? I'm glad to hear that.

A: I found the message on the BBS.

B: The Internet is so useful.

A: You're right. We can always find something useful and important on the net.

Conversation 3

A: Hi, Jim. Can you tell me how to book tickets online?

B: OK, what tickets do you want to book?

A: Flight tickets.

B: Those are hard to come by on the eve of the festival, but we can try.

A: I'm sure that you can find some.

B: Well, it depends on your luck and not my abilities.

Conversation 4

A: Tom, are you still on line?

B: Yes.

A: What are you doing?

B: I'm shopping. I've just bought two DVDs at a low price.

A: How do you pay? I'll pay when I get them. Don't you do shopping on line?

B: No. I just download music and movies from the net.

IV. Word Bank & Useful Expressions

the Internet	因特网	access	访问
to browse	浏览	format	格式
to install	安装	to restart	重启
cyberspace	网络/虚拟空间	to download	下载
e-bank	电子银行	e-business	电子商务
e-journal	电子杂志	e-mail	电子邮件
blog	博客	to enter	回车
floppy disc	软盘	hard disc	硬盘
interface	界面	keyboard	键盘
memory	存储器	modem	调制解调器
mouse	鼠标	version	版本
virus	病毒	to surf	在……冲浪
hacker	电脑黑客	superhighway	高速公路
homepage	主页	website	(环球网的)站点
net bar	网吧	password	密码
application software	应用软件	to go to the chatroom	聊天
to go to the Internet	上网	information superhighway	信息高速公路
to key in	键入	to log in/on	登陆
to log out	退出	on-line courses	网络课程
on-line shopping	网上购物	WWW (World Wide Web)	环球网

1. I often chat on line.
2. I often do shopping on line.
3. Do you often surf the Internet?
4. I use the Internet to look for information I need and send e-mails.
5. I download movies and music from the net.
6. My computer died when I was saving the file to the disc.
7. The file is lost.
8. Didn't you set up a firewall?
9. Input the password.
10. What can I do on the Internet?
11. What's your company's website?
12. You can do plenty of things on the Internet.
13. Companies send advertisements to customers over the net.
14. You will meet lots of friends on the Internet.
15. There is a lot of information on the Internet.
16. The Internet is becoming an essential means of communication in today's society.
17. I have made many friends on the Internet.
18. All communication in our company is done via e-mail.
19. The computer is user-friendly.
20. You can play chess with friends all over the country on a computer.
21. Plenty of people like playing games on the Internet, especially children.
22. All kinds of people can find out things that they enjoy.

V. In-class Activities

Task 1

Nowadays, computers and the Internet are popular in people's life, which has great influence on people's life. Work with your partner and answer the following questions:

1. Can you give some examples to show how computers and the Internet influence people's life?
2. Do you use a computer in your study and spare time? How often do you use it?
3. How do you like computer games? How often do you play computer games?
4. What do you think of the Internet and the World Wide Web? Are they important in our modern life and work? Why or why not?
5. Can you say something about the development in computer industry in China?
6. Computer industry is developing very fast. Can you predict what the life might be like in the future? Is the computer going to dominate our life? Give your reasons.

Task 2

Surfing the Internet is popular with the college students. Make up a dialogue about what you do online in your daily life.

Tips:

- to read news
- to check e-mail
- to chat
- to do shopping
- to download music and movies
- to meet new friends

Task 3

Divide the class into groups of 3 to 5 students. Each group should design (draw on a piece of blank paper) a web page cover for the class. Try to describe as much as you can about the class and the teacher. When every one is finished, each group should present their web page to the class.

Task 4

Topic: Does the advantages of the Internet overwhelm the disadvantages?

Procedures:

1. Form groups of five. Two take the affirmative (positive) side in debate, another two take the opposition (negative) side, and the last is the judge. On each team, one acts as the first debater, and the other the second.
2. Five to ten minutes will be given for preparation.
3. The debate begins. The first positive debater states the opening speech for two minutes; after the speaker sits down, the first negative speaker stands up and delivers a two-minute opening speech. Then, the second positive debater starts the five-minute free debate session. Students take turns to speak. During the debate, everyone must wait for the speaker to sit down before standing up to speak.
4. At the end of the debate, each group summarizes their main arguments. The second negative debater begins first and then the second positive speaker.
5. At the end of the debate, the judge may decide which side wins.
6. Choose one or two groups who have done a good job to come to the front to debate before the whole class, and the judges from each group will form the judge committee to vote for the final winner.

Here are some arguments for reference.

Arguments for the affirmative side: The advantages of the Internet overwhelm the disadvantages.

- to make writing easier
- to provide efficient management in banks
- to reduce heavy burden for people
- to provide a good means for communication
- to help hospitals
- to make us well-informed
- to make our life easier

Arguments for the opposition side: The disadvantages of the Internet overwhelm the advantages.

to do harm to our eyes
to affect our health
to make us become lazier
to provide chances for criminals to commit crimes
to do great damage if there is malfunction
to make our handwriting get worse and worse
to isolate us from reality
to waste time on playing games

VI. After-class Activities

Task 1

Based on the debate you have in class, write a speech about the advantages and disadvantages of the Internet, and give some advice on how to prevent people from becoming addicted to the Internet.

Task 2

Make up a story about e-dating.

VII. Additional Information

Advantages and Disadvantages of the Internet

During his evolution journey from Neanderthals to Homo erectus and then to Homo sapiens, man has come a long way. Because of his continuous quest for more and more amenities and facilities, the nineties have seen a major turn-around with the invention of computers. 10 years ago, the term Internet was practically anonymous to most of the people. And today the Internet has become the most ever powerful tool for man throughout the world. The Internet is a collection of various services and resources.

Although many people still think of e-mail and World Wide Web as the principle constituents of the Internet, there is a lot more in store than e-mail, chat rooms, celebrity web sites and search engines. It also became the best business tool of modern scenario. Today the Internet has brought the globe in a single room. Right from news across the corner of the world, wealth of knowledge to shopping, purchasing the tickets of your favorite movie—everything is at your finger tips. The Internet has great potential and lots to offer. . . , however, like every single innovation in science and technology, the Internet has its own advantages and disadvantages.

Advantages

Communication

The foremost target of the Internet has always been the communication. And the

Internet has excelled beyond the expectations. Still, innovations are going on to make it faster, more reliable. With the advent of the Internet, our earth has reduced and has attained the form of a global village.

Now we can communicate in a fraction of second with a person who is sitting in the other part of the world. Today for better communication, we can avail the facilities of e-mail; we can chat for hours with our loved ones. There are plenty of messenger services. With help of such services, it has become very easy to establish a kind of global friendship where you can share your thoughts and explore other cultures of different ethnicity.

Information

Information is probably the biggest advantage the Internet is offering. The Internet is a virtual treasure trove of information. Any kind of information on any topic under the sun is available on the Internet. The search engines like Google and Yahoo are at your service on the Internet. You can almost find any type of data on almost any kind of subject that you are looking for. There is a huge amount of information available on the Internet for just about every subject known to man, ranging from government law and services, trade fairs and conferences, market information, new ideas and technical support, the list is endless.

Students and children are among the top users who surf the Internet for research. Today, it is almost required that students should use the Internet for research for the purpose of gathering resources. Teachers have started giving assignments that require research on the Internet. Almost every coming day, researches on medical issues become much easier to locate. Numerous web sites available on the net are offering loads of information for people to research diseases and talk to doctors online at sites such as America's Doctor. During 1998 over 20 million people reported going online to retrieve health information.

Entertainment

Entertainment is another popular *raison d'être* (存在理由) why many people prefer to surf the Internet. In fact, media of the Internet has become quite successful in trapping multifaceted entertainment factor. Downloading games, visiting chat rooms or just surfing the Web are some of the uses people have discovered. There are numerous games that may be downloaded from the Internet for free. Chat rooms are popular because users can meet new and interesting people. In fact, the Internet has been successfully used by people to find life long partners. When people surf the Web, there are numerous things that can be found. Music, hobbies, news and more can be found and shared on the Internet.

Services

Many services are now provided on the Internet such as online banking, job seeking, purchasing tickets for your favorite movies, guidance services on array of topics engulfing every aspect of life and hotel reservations.

E-commerce

E-commerce is the concept used for any type of commercial maneuvering or business deals that involves the transfer of information across the globe via the Internet. It has become a phenomenon associated with any kind of shopping, almost anything. You name it and E-commerce with its giant tentacles engulfing every single product and service will make it available at your door steps. It has got a real amazing and wide range of products from household needs, technology to entertainment.

Disadvantages

Theft of personal information

If you use the Internet, you may be facing grave danger as your personal information such as name, address, credit card number etc. can be accessed by other culprits to make your problems worse.

Spamming

Spamming refers to sending unwanted e-mails in bulk, which provides no purposes and needlessly obstructs the entire system. Such illegal activities can be very frustrating for you, and so instead of just ignoring it, you should make an effort to try and stop these activities so that using the Internet can become much safer.

Virus threat

Virus is nothing but a program which disrupts the normal functioning of your computer systems. Computers attached to the Internet are more prone to virus attacks and they can end up into crashing your whole hard disk, causing you considerable headache.

Pornography

This is perhaps the biggest threat related to your children's healthy mental life, a very serious issue concerning the Internet. There are thousands of pornographic sites on the Internet that can be easily found and can be a detrimental factor to letting children use the Internet.

Though Internet can also create havoc or destruction and its misuse can be very fatal, the advantages of it outweigh its disadvantages.

VIII. Appreciation

The following is an extract from Barack Obama's victory speech in Chicago.

If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible; who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time; who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer.

It's the answer told by lines that stretched around schools and churches in numbers this nation has never seen; by people who waited three hours and four hours, many for the very first time in their lives, because they believed that this time must be different; that their voice could be that difference.

It's the answer spoken by young and old, rich and poor, Democrat and

Republican, black, white, Latino, Asian, Native American, gay, straight, disabled and not disabled—Americans who sent a message to the world that we have never been a collection of Red States and Blue States: we are, and always will be, the United States of America.

It's the answer that led those who have been told for so long by so many to be cynical, and fearful, and doubtful of what we can achieve to put their hands on the arc of history and bend it once more toward the hope of a better day.

It's been a long time coming, but tonight, because of what we did on this day, in this election, at this defining moment, change has come to America.

I just received a very gracious call from Senator McCain. He fought long and hard in this campaign, and he's fought even longer and harder for the country he loves. He has endured sacrifices for America that most of us cannot begin to imagine, and we are better off for the service rendered by this brave and selfless leader. I congratulate him and Governor Palin for all they have achieved, and I look forward to working with them to renew this nation's promise in the months ahead.

I want to thank my partner in this journey, a man who campaigned from his heart and spoke for the men and women he grew up with on the streets of Scranton and rode with on that train home to Delaware, the Vice Presidentelect of the United States, Joe Biden.

I would not be standing here tonight without the unyielding support of my best friend for the last sixteen years, the rock of our family and the love of my wife, our nation's next First Lady, Michelle Obama. Sasha and Malia, I love you both so much, and you have earned the new puppy that's coming with us to the White House. And while she's no longer with us, I know my grandmother is watching, along with the family that made me who I am. I miss them tonight, and know that my debt to them is beyond measure.

To my campaign manager David Plouffe, my chief strategist David Axelrod, and the best campaign team ever assembled in the history of politics—you made this happen, and I am forever grateful for what you've sacrificed to get it done.

But above all, I will never forget who this victory truly belongs to—it belongs to you.

Unit 2 Reading

I. Background

Reading has become an indispensable part of human life since characters came into being in primitive society thousands of years ago. As a literate person, one can hardly improve himself without reading. A famous Chinese saying goes like this: "Indulging oneself in books may bring fortune as well as a belle to him." (书中自有黄金屋, 书中自有颜如玉。) Of course, we read books not for fortune or beautiful lady, but for self-improvement and self-fulfillment, benefiting our society. In a positive and correct attitude, we can learn almost everything through reading.



Books have provided us with many theories and practices, thoughts and experiences, experiments and skills, etc. And numerous new books are springing up every day to enrich our colorful world. We cannot do everything that others experienced, but we can learn from them through reading their books. We share the same feelings and experiences as the writer while reading. We laugh when they laugh; we cry when they cry; we enjoy everything written in the book. That's why so many people love reading. Can we resist reading a good book?

We couldn't read all the books even if we read every minute and every second all through our life. We need to read both extensively and selectively. Francis Bacon, a British philosopher, said in his essay *On Study* "Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested." How to choose books matters too much. Different people have different tastes, ranging from classics to popular novels, magazines, newspapers, etc. There are no fixed standards to judge which book should be tasted, swallowed and chewed and digested.

So what makes people choose from numerous books? Purpose. General purposes or specific purposes. Some people read for knowledge, some for pleasure, and some for killing time. It is purpose of reading that determines what to read. Students read books in order to learn basic knowledge which will be put into use in future. Professionals read books in order to enhance their understanding of theories and specific technologies. If one wants to gain more knowledge about his major, he needs to read specific books borrowed from the library. If one wants to know what happens around the world, he needs to read some popular magazines or newspapers sold in the market. In short, what you want to learn determines what you read. Desires for learning new things make reading possible.

Never stop reading. Our life would stop if we stopped reading. We are connected to the outer world through reading. We communicate with other people through

reading. It sounds ridiculous, for we are living in an information age in which the mass media are so advanced that we can communicate with the outer world via various ways. While taking part in a party or watching a TV show is a way of mutual communication, it is equally true that reading a book or an article is a good way to communicate, though silently even lonely, in someone's eyes, it is more meaningful and insightful. Reading is worth our efforts to develop a lifelong habit. Enjoy your reading, any time.

II. Warm-up

Discuss with your partner about the books you often read.

1. What do you usually read in your spare time?
2. Why do you like reading such kind of book / magazine / novel / newspaper, etc?

III. Demonstration

Conversation 1

A: Hey, Juliet. What are you reading?

B: Oh, I'm reading a novel *Gone with the Wind*.

A: *Gone with the Wind*? I've never heard that. Is it newly published?

B: No, I don't think so. It's a popular novel written by Margaret Michelle, an American writer.

A: What is it about?

B: It's about Scarlet, the heroine's love story during the American Civil War.

A: That must be girls' favorite. Girls are often crazy about romantic love stories.

B: Yeah, but not that much. I just want to practice my English.

A: By reading English novel? Dear me! That's too tough for me. I may just read English books for fun, such as *English Salon*.

B: It doesn't matter what you read. We just form a habit of reading. Do you think it is a meaningful way of campus life?

A: Yeah, I can't agree with you more.

Conversation 2

A: God! What a mess!

B: What's up, Jenny?

A: It's the reading comprehension. I failed 4 in 5.

B: Take it easy. You are not always failing the test, right?

A: But I have made mistakes while reading recently.

B: Have you figured out where the problem is?

A: No. If only I knew it. What shall I do?

B: Okay. I used to be annoyed by reading comprehension. Later, I found a book titled *How to Read*. I learned a lot from this book and improved my reading skills.

A: Really? Can you lend me your book? I want to get out of the trouble.

B: Of course. But you must make it clear that you are not for testing but for reading.

A: What do you mean by that?

B: I mean you should know the true meaning of reading.

A: Are you kidding? That's weird. I just want to find the right answer.

B: Whatever. Good luck!

Conversation 3

A: Ted, would you please tell me how to improve my reading ability? I know you are good at reading comprehension.

B: Not only reading comprehension. Exactly, I'm good at reading.

A: That's the same. Don't show off, man!

B: Totally different! Reading comprehension is to test your understanding some of the ideas and details of a certain passage. But reading is actually a way of self-improvement for me.

A: But how? Would you please make it clear?

B: Well, we read for what?

A: Of course to answer the questions, to pass the test, and suchlike.

B: Short-sighted! To pass the test is just a tiny part of our reading activities. You'll never taste the pleasure of reading if you just focus on answering questions.

A: Then what's the next?

B: Read extensively what you really like. Enlarge your vocabulary while reading; take notes if you think it necessary; recite the brilliant part. There are so many you can do when you read. But the key point is that, get what you really want.

A: I seem to catch what you say.

Conversation 4

A: Peter, what do you usually do when you are free?

B: I usually read some books and magazines.

A: About what?

B: For books, I like reading swordsman novels. For magazines, football.

A: Swordsman novels? Who is your favorite writer, Jin Yong, Liang Yusheng or Gu Long?

B: Of course Jin Yong. I'm crazy about him and his novels, especially "Legend of the Condor Heroes".

A: Great minds think alike! I am fond of Guo Jing, who is honest and diligent though a little bit slow-minded.

B: Yeah, you are quite right. But, ah, I like Huang Rong very much. She is beautiful, lovely and smart.

A: All boys are crazy about her, you know. Besides the hero and heroine in the novel, is there anything else impressing you?

B: Well, there are too many plots impressing me deeply. But as a whole, there is one theme conveyed in Jin Yong's novels, that's, patriotism. I believe Jin Yong's

novels are so popular among Chinese young people not only because the wonderful plots but also his optimistic themes such as patriotism.

A: I can't agree with you more. There is another factor we can't ignore: Hong Kong's TV series adapted from Jin Yong's swordsman novels, which attracted many people's attention.

B: Definitely right! With the help of TV series, Jin Yong became famous. Many college students collect his novels.

A: That's what is often called "fans", right?

Conversation 5

A: Have you read any good books lately?

B: No. But I read some blogs online.

A: Blog? What's it about?

B: It's a new way of writing and reading. Someone uploads his works on a certain websites, such as "www.bokee.com", and then people will read his works online and make comments.

A: Sounds interesting. So what do you often read about?

B: College life. I want to know how to live a meaningful college life.

A: Is there any difference between reading books and reading blogs?

B: Totally different! Reading blog is a completely new experience. Not only does it render you much latest information, but it also offers you opportunities to communicate with the blogger and other readers. We can never make it possible while reading books.

A: You're quite right. But I'm afraid I can't find any emotion to read a blog. After all, it is virtual, we can't touch it, even turn the pages...

B: But you can read it. What matters is the contents, not the form, right? At the beginning, I wasn't used to it, but gradually, I was fond of it. Now, I often read some articles and share my thoughts with other readers by pasting my words on the web. I tremble to think one day, I'll also write my own blog.

A: Then I must be your first reader. Ha-ha, that's terrific!

IV. Word Bank & Useful Expressions

literature: poetry, novel / fiction, prose, drama (文学四样式: 诗歌、小说、散文、戏剧)

masterpiece (杰作、名著), popular literature (大众文学)

novels: romantic novel, swordsman novel, history novel, science fiction, detective fiction

narration, exposition, argumentation

blog/webblog (博客、网络日志), blogger (博主、写博客的人)

1. Have you read any good books lately?

2. Some of the classics are real spellbinders (令人着迷的人或物).

3. Good literature helps you understand human emotions.